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SUBJECT: The Twentieth Congress of the Communist Party
of the Soviet Union (CPSU), 14-25 February 1956

REFS:

25X1A2g

1. Attached are 2 copies of each of the following documents
dealing with the cited CPSU Congress:

A. The XX Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union--
February 1956, Parts I, II and III.

B. Notes - Soviet Affairs, "The Twentieth Congress of the
Communist Party of the Soviet Union," #187, 19 April 1956.

25X1X7

3. Your attention is invited to the alleged "Doctrinal Adjustment to
Changed Conditions" discussed in Section C on pp. 7-9 (of item B listed in
para. 1 above), particularly as to the question of "violence". The International
Communism Division takes the position that there has been no fundamental
change on the part of the international Communist movement, as a careful
reading of the major speeches of the Congress will clearly reveal. With
respect to the use of violence, the "change" is largely one of tactical semantics--
a more cunning presentation of the Communist position, designed to confuse or
deceive the unwary by giving the false impression of a change-over to genuinely
democratic procedures. The cited discussion does bring out the simple fact
that Communists are still committed to the use of violence if anyone stands in
their way. It does not, however, even in the final paragraph of Section C,
bring out clearly and forcefully the fact that after the conquest of power--
however it is gained--the Communists are still committed to the basic Marxist-
Leninist requirement that it is not enough merely to take over the "bourgeois
state machine" but that that "machine" must be "smashed." This requirement
was cloaked by Khrushchev in the phrase "...to capture a stable majority in
parliament, and transform the latter from an organ of bourgeois democracy
into a genuine instrument of the people's will." (Item A, p. A-32). A careful
reading of the Congress speeches also makes it clear that the "peaceful
transition to socialism" begins only after the CP has conquered state power,
"transformed" the state structure, and smashed all major resistance.

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